



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

May 6, 2009

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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
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FROM: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT ON DENTAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AT MEDICAL HUBS

On March 3, 2009, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back in 30 days on: 1) the respective progress, challenges and timelines in establishing public/private partnerships for dental examination capability for foster youth in each of the other Medical Hubs besides Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (Harbor-UCLA) and Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MLK-MACC); 2) how the dental health needs of children will be met; 3) what happens to the four new full-time positions once the grant is expended; and 4) determine the County's ability to expand on-site dental services at the new High Desert Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (HD MACC) scheduled for completion in 2010.

This is to provide your Board with a complete report on our findings and on-going County efforts on dental services provided to foster children at Medical Hubs.

ADDRESSING DENTAL NEEDS

Under existing Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) policy, foster children under the supervision of DCFS, who are three years of age and older, are to receive a dental examination by a licensed dentist within 30 days of initial placement and a regular check up once a year. In addition, DCFS policy requires that the Children Social Workers (CSWs) provide a status report on the child's current dental condition and recent visits in the Juvenile Dependency Court's Status Review Reports. DCFS tracks completed dental examinations for children in out-of-home placements. The CSWs responsibility is to ensure the dental needs of children are met.

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The Department of Health Services (DHS) plays an active role in collaboration with DCFS to ensure that children in out-of-home placements receive dental services. Dental screenings are currently provided at the Medical Hubs as part of the initial medical examination. The dental screening is conducted by a Medical Hub clinician and consists of a screening of the child's mouth to identify any visible signs of an oral health problem. If a need for dental services is identified, the Medical Hub staff provides a list of Denti-Cal providers to caregivers, refer caregivers to DHS dental services, or refer caregivers to other providers such as the University of Southern California (USC) School of Dentistry. The need for dental services is documented on the medical reporting form returned to DCFS and the CSWs and Public Health Nurses are responsible for ensuring the child receives the appropriate follow-up.

DCFS, working jointly with members of the Juvenile Court Dental Health Services Committee, which includes representatives from various child advocacy organizations and under the Court's supervision, has provided the Medical Hubs with an array of referrals of dental providers that the Medical Hubs can use in assisting caregivers in accessing needed dental services.

GRANT FUNDED POSITIONS

On March 3, 2009, your Board accepted a grant from Kaiser Permanente to provide dental services at Harbor-UCLA and MLK-MACC for children seen at the Medical Hubs. The \$300,000 grant is effective April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 and will be used as start-up funds to allow for hiring of four full-time staff and expansion of clinic appointment slots for children referred by the Medical Hubs. The four new positions are temporary items; however, DHS will seek to maintain the dental services and the staff by generating revenue to offset the costs. Children in foster care are eligible for Medi-Cal. It is anticipated that upon completion of the Kaiser grant funding period, the cost of providing the services will be revenue offset through Medi-Cal billings.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS – DENTAL SERVICES

This Office has been actively working with DHS and DCFS over the last year to develop public/private partnerships to provide children in the County's child welfare system with dental services that are located at the same facilities as the DHS Medical Hubs. The following is a summary of progress, challenges and timelines to date by Medical Hubs at the LAC+USC Medical Center (LAC+USC), Olive View/UCLA Medical Center (OV/UCLA) and HD MACC.

LAC+USC

- Space has been identified to provide dental services at the LAC+USC Medical Hub when the Hub moves to its new location in the old outpatient building on the main campus and at the soon to be opened satellite Medical Hub at MacLaren Children's Center in El Monte, California.
- CEO, DCFS, and DHS are researching funding opportunities to offset the one time costs of establishing dental services at these two locations. As soon as a State, federal, or foundation grant opportunity is identified, DHS will apply for funding to cover start-up costs including space renovation and equipment acquisition. In addition, LAC+USC has contacted the USC School of Dentistry to discuss opportunities for a partnership in which USC provides dental services.
- DHS is seeking to establish on-site dental services at the LAC+USC Medical Hub and the satellite Medical Hub at MacLaren Children's Center during Fiscal Year 2009-10; however, the timeline is dependent on grant funding and award cycles.

OV/UCLA

- OV/UCLA has space limitations that, to date, have precluded the development of a public/private partnership for construction and equipment for dental services provided on site. In the interim, DHS and DCFS continue to work closely to ensure that all children seen at the OV/UCLA Medical Hub receive a dental screening and are linked to community dental providers to receive services. The development of pediatric dental services at HD MACC may also become a viable option for referral of OV/UCLA patients.
- DHS has explored various space options, however, with limited resources the establishment of dental services on the campus is not likely to occur until space reallocations are made with the expansion of the Emergency Room (ER).
- The new ER is anticipated to open in 2011, at which time, the Medical Hub may also expand services.

HD MACC

- On March 9, 2009, DHS submitted a funding proposal to First 5 LA to support the establishment of pediatric dental services at HD MACC. The requested funds would be used to establish three dental operatories and provide start-up funding for a dental provider.

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- Space has been identified at the existing HD MACC facility for a pediatric dental clinic, however, funding has not yet been identified for the renovations necessary to prepare the space for a dental clinic. CEO, DHS, and DCFS will continue to seek a partner to offset the costs associated with renovating the space for a dental clinic.
- If DHS is awarded funding from First 5 LA and a partner is identified to fund the space renovation, it is anticipated that the pediatric dental clinic at the HD MACC could open by December 31, 2009.

CONCLUSION

DHS and DCFS will continue to work collaboratively to develop public/private partnerships to provide children in the County's child welfare system with dental services that are located at the same facilities as the Medical Hubs.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Dara Lark at (213) 974-2396 or dlark@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:SRH:SAS
MLM:DL:yb

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Interim Director, Department of Health Services

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